

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15

IOE-00 /060 W

----- 120622

P 281544Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 924

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YROK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, NI

SUBJECT: UNGA SPECIAL SESSION

REF: STATE 112992

1. REGRET THAT COMBINATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES, NOT LEAST OF WHICH JULY 29 COUP, KEPT EMBASSY FROM HAVING MORE THAN CURSORY DISCUSSIONS WITH MEA ON SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. PRIOR COUP, MEA OFFICIALS HAD TOLD EMBOFF NIGERIA WAS SENDING " STRONG DELEGATION", HOPED CONFRONTATIONS AND PROBLEMS COULD BE AVOIDED BUT THAT FMG DIDN'T EXPECT TOO MUCH TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OFF WAS ABLE PIN DOWN ADEKUOYE, DIRECTOR MEA ECONOMICS DEPT, MEMBER OF THREE MAN FMG DELEGATION TO SS, AND PROBABLE DRAFTER OF WHATEVER BRIEFING PAPERS FMG DID ON SUBJECT, FOR 10-15 MINUTES SAME DAY HE DEPARTED FOR LIME. HIS BRIEF COMMENTS WERE SUPERFICIAL AND PREDICTABLE.

2. ADEKUTYE SAID FMG VIEWS SS AS POTENTIALLY RPRODUCTIVE AND HOPES IT WILL BE SUCCESRFUL. HE SAW IT AS ONE PART OF WIDER PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE, WHICH FMG GAVORS, AND FROM WHICH MFG LOOKS FOR PROGRESS. ALEKUOYE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIR OPINITN REAL PROGRESS WOULD BE DIFFIMULT IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME BETTER DEFINITION OF AIR PRICE." IN

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CONTEXT PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE HE MENTIONED NIGERIAPIJS

"OBLIGATIONS" TO OPEC AND G-77, BUT FAILED TO DEFINE THESE

OBLIGATIONS. ADEKUOYE SAID HIS DELEGATION'S MAIN CONCERN WILL BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MECHANISM WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE ADJUSTMENT OF PRICES IN SUCH A WAY AS TO INSURE PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT IN THE REAL STANDARD OF LIVING OF LDC INHABITANTS. INDEXING IS MUVCH ON THEIH MIND BUT THEY ARE NOT WEDDED TO IT.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: ADEKUOYE WAS RECITING HIS FAMILIAR THEME OF " A BETTER DEAL FOR THE LDC'S " TO WHICH HE RETURNS FREQUENTLY

AND WHICH PROBABLY EXPRESSES AS WELL AS ANY OTHER STATEMENT FMG ITTTITUDE TOWARD IMPORTANT ECONOMIC QUESTIONS FACIOG WORLD TODAY. NIHERIA'S PERFORMANCE IO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORA IS ON TWO PLANES. IN OPEC, THE ORGANIZATION FAR AND AWAR MOST IOPORTANT TO NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC WELL BEING, THE FMG TAKES A BACK SEAT, PREFERRING TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE MORE IMPORTANT PRODUCERS. IN OTHER FORA, FMG IS MOTIVATED BY CONVICTION THAT LDC'S HAVE FAILED TO RECEIVE FAIR SHARE, THAT RECTIFYING THIS SITUATION CAN ONLY RESULT FROM CONCERTED, UNITED ACTION AND THAT BY VIRTUE OF BEING FIRST AMONG EQUALS IN AFRICA

NIGERIA HAS A LEADERSHIP
ROLE TO PLAY IN THE LDC STRUGGLE. IN
NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO CONVENTION OF LOME, IN FORMATION
OF ECOWAS AND MOST RECENTLY IN MTN, FMG'S CONVICTION HAS LED
IT TO ACT AS SPOKESMAN FOR LDC'S, PARTICULARLY AFRICAN
LDC'S. FMG RENSE OF SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICAN AND, TO LESSER
EXTENT OTHER, LDC'S IS SUCH THAT IT CHOOSES AT TIMES TO
CHAMPION CAUSES FROM WHICH IT WILL RECEIVE LITTLE DIRECT
BENEFIT. EXAMPLES CAN BE FOUND IN FMG EFFORTS BOTH IN MTN
AND IN EEC-AMP NEGOTIATIONS ON BEHALF LOWER TARIFFS ON A
VARIETY OF PRODUCTS WHICH IT EXPORTS NOT AT ALL OR IN ONLY
SMALL QUANTITIES. FMG ATTITUDE WOULD PRESUMABLY LEAD IT TO
SUPPORT OTHER CARTEL MOVEMENTS BY LDC'S EVEN IF SUCH ACTION
MEANT HIGHER COSTS
FOR RAW MATERIALS OR FINISHED PRODUCTS FOR
FMG.

4. IN CONFERENCE AT HAND, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT LOOK FOR FMG TO
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PLAY LEADING ROLE. COMBINATION OF ILL-PREPAREDNESS, WHICH
RESULTED FROM UNCERTAINTIES AND FROM MORE URGENT PRIORITIES
FOLLOWING COUP, AND SKEPTICISM THAT MUCH GOOD WILL COME FROM
THE CONFERENCE PROBABLY DICTATE A LOW KEY POSTURE. WE SEE
LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT FMG HAS ANY MAJOR INITIATIVES PLANNED
AND VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE THAT FMG WILL DESERT G-77 RANKS ON
ANY MAJOR QUESTION. IF LDC'S SHOULD SPLIT INTO RADICAL/MODERATE
FACTIONS, NIGERIA WILL PROBABLY TAKE ITS USUAL PLACE NN MODERATE

CAMP. SHOULD LDC HARDLINERS GAIN UPPER HAND, NIGERIANS WILL GO
A ONG WITH MAJORITY, EVEN IG IT ONLY APPARENT MAJORITY, DESPITE
PRIVATE MISGIVINGS THEY MAY HAVE. END COMMENT.
CROSBY

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